



PHOTOGRAPHY/ GERALD SILVER

Col. Fred Hillyard, left, headquarters commander of Fort Douglas since 1986, relinquishes the post to Col. Stacy E. Reeves.

# Fort Douglas gets its 26th commander

**Cafe," which folded immediately.**

**among the Broadway community.**

The latest step in its development was a reading, with Victor Garber (the star of "Lend Me a Tenor") and Joanna Gleason (a Tony winner for "Into the Woods") in the title roles. With representatives of all three Broadway theater owners looking at the musical-in-progress, it was "nervous-making," Susman says. But, he says, "we seem to have pulled it off."

The Shubert, Netherlander and Juyámcyñ organizations were all interested in giving the young producers a theater, according to Suisman — though the current squeeze has left the Shuberts with no first-class musical houses.

"Nick and Nora" began quite by accident, Suisman says.

He and Venecost had worked together "on a terrible Broadway play, which we try not to talk about although we had a great time doing it." Suismann said "That was

**Hillyard's next military assignment is to be president of the Airborne and Special Operations Test Board at Fort Bragg, N.C.**

"It has been a great honor to serve as the post commander for the past three years," Hillyard said. His father began his military career at Fort Douglas years ago, and Hillyard, born at Fort Benning, Ga., said he plans to return to Utah when he retires from military service three years from now. "Fort Douglas and the Wasatch Mountains will always occupy a special place in my heart."

Col. Fred J. Hillyard, post headquarters commander since June 23, 1986, passed command of the historic fort to Col. Stacy E. Reeves. Reeves, in turn, relinquished command of the Readiness Group at Fort Douglas, which was taken over by Col. Dean H. Nichols.

## Ceremony Friday.

mentation was made of the congressional mandate to close part of the fort between 1990 and 1995. Instead, the three colonels and representatives of the fort's higher headquarters, at Fort Carson, Colo., spoke of renovations made in recent years at the fort, and of the quality of soldiers assigned to the 96th Army Reserve Command and other units that work there.

**By Steve Fidel**  
eseret News staff writer

Susman and Pentecost wanted to put together their own project, but "he was doing other things and I was doing other things." Susman's "all-purpose job" on "Dreamgirls" allowed him to watch Michael Bennett shaping a new musical. Then, after working for the Broadway company of "Little Johnny Jones," he said, "I hung up my assisting hat."

So Susman went off on his own. He produced and directed "The Coarse Acting Show" off-Broadway. He spent a year writing a musical of his own. "It was terrible," he said.

All the time, however, he and Pentecost were looking for an idea. At last, fate stepped in. "One night we went to see the original 'Thin Man,' Suismann said. "About halfway through we looked at each other and the light bulb went off. We went to dinner, we talked for two or three hours afterwards about how modern Nick and Nora are about their relationship. It was really the appeal of their relationship that made us think that they could sing."

"Nick and Nora" takes place in 1937 in Hollywood, "it and around a movie studio," Suisman said. "but I think

Fort Douglas' largest role is to serve as the command headquarters for the 96th Army Reserve Command in Utah, Idaho and Montana.

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The command of Fort Douglas was passed to the 26th commander in the fort's 127-year history at a ceremony Friday.

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